

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 EB-08 L-03 STR-05 CIAE-00  
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00  
CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-07 SSO-00 INRE-00 SS-15 SP-02  
NSCE-00 /070 W  
-----076208 051711Z /41

O 051500Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6347  
MARAD WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0188

MARAD FOR BOURDON

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EEWT, EWWT, US, UR  
SUBJECT: MARINE CARGO INSURANCE NEGOTIATIONS IN LONDON,  
JANUARY 10-12

REF: (A) STATE 299540; (B) MOSCOW 18054

1. MEL'NIKOV, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE DEPUTY  
DIRECTOR FOR AMERICAN COUNTRIES, CALLED E/C COUNSELOR  
JANUARY 5 TO REPORT DISPLEASURE OF DEPUTY MINISTER  
IVANOV THAT BRITISH VISAS STILL HAVE NOT BEEN ISSUED  
FOR IVANOV AND HIS DELEGATION. MEL'NIKOV STATED THAT  
SOVIET DELEGATION HAD ASKED TO LEAVE ON JANUARY 6. HE  
ASKED THAT WE RAISE THE PROBLEM WITH BRITISH EMBASSY.  
COUNSELOR REPLIED THAT, AS MEL'NIKOV WAS WELL AWARE,  
WE HAD MENTIONED THIS TO BRITISH SOME TIME AGO AND HAD  
KEPT THEM UP TO DATE WITH DEVELOPMENTS, BUT THAT DATE  
OF VISA ISSUANCE WAS PROBABLY AFFECTED BY RELATIVELY  
LATE SOVIET APPLICATION. NEVERTHELESS, HE PROMISED TO  
CALL BRITISH COUNTERPART, ONCE MORE, TO URGE

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EXPEDITIOUS TREATMENT.

2. COUNSELOR CALLED BRITISH COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR  
HUTSON, WHO, AFTER REFERRING TO FACT THAT SOVIETS  
HAD GIVEN LITTLE ADVANCE NOTICE AND WISHED TO ARRIVE  
IN LONDON FOUR DAYS BEFORE THE SCHEDULED MEETING,  
STATED THAT HE HAD ALREADY SENT TWO MESSAGES TO

LONDON BASED ON OUR EARLIER CONVERSATIONS. HUTSON SAID IT WOULD BE NORMAL PRACTICE TO ISSUE VISA ON A FRIDAY (JANUARY 6) FOR TRAVEL ON A MONDAY (JANUARY 9). IN AN EMERGENCY THE EMBASSY COULD ISSUE THE VISAS ON A WEEKEND. HE SAID HE WOULD COMMUNICATE ONCE MORE WITH BRITISH GOVERNMENT TODAY.

3. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION WHETHER A HYPOTHETICAL PARALLEL APPROACH BY US EMBASSY LONDON WOULD BE HELPFUL OR HARMFUL TO THE DESIRED OBJECTIVE, HUTSON SAW NO OBJECTION IN SUCH A SUPPORTIVE APPROACH, COMMENTING THAT EMBASSY LONDON KNEW ITS WAY AROUND.

4. COMMENT: WE DO NOT KNOW THE SOVIET MOTIVATION IN SETTING SUCH AN EARLY ARRIVAL DATE IN LONDON, AND WE SUSPECT THE BRITISH MAY DOUBT THAT IT WAS INTENDED FOR WEEKEND SHOPPING. IN ANY EVENT, THE SOVIET DELEGATION MEMBERS ARE ALL WELL KNOWN TO UK AUTHORITIES FROM PAST TRAVEL OR RESIDENCES. SINCE FAILURE TO ISSUE THE VISAS BY JANUARY 7 COULD GIVE SOVIETS RATIONALE FOR BACKING OUT OF THIS MEETING, WHICH IS SO IMPORTANT TO USG, WE BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL THAT VISAS BE ISSUED NO LATER THAN SATURDAY AND HOPEFULLY BY COB FRIDAY, JANUARY 6. WE ASSUME EMBASSY LONDON HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH

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APPROPRIATE BRITISH AUTHORITIES ABOUT THE SOVIET DELEGATION AND LEAVE IT TO LONDON TO JUDGE WHETHER ANOTHER EFFORT THERE IS NEEDED TO OBTAIN ISSUANCE OF VISA ON JANUARY 6 OR 7.

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## Message Attributes

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